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LATHROP

Development  
of Libraries  
in Michigan

Library Science  
B. L. S.

1900



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A  
HISTORY  
of the  
DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIES  
in  
MICHIGAN

by  
OLIVE CLARICE LATHROP.

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A  
THESIS  
PRESENTED for the DEGREE  
of  
BACHELOR of LIBRARY SCIENCE  
  
in the  
ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY SCHOOL  
of the  
UNIVERSITY of ILLINOIS.

Presented June, 1900.



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OF Bachelor of Library Science

Katharine G. Sharp

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF Library Science



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## PREFACE.

The purpose of the following exposition is to present in a careful manner a connected account of ~~the~~ library progress in Michigan supplemented by a tabular presentation of library statistics. For this purpose sources of widely different nature were consulted and in addition a circular letter containing a list of questions was sent to every public library in the State. From the answers obtained conclusions were formed and the table appended to the history was compiled. The statistics are recent and so far as known accurate.

It is to be regretted that of 107 libraries addressed 38 failed to reply to the questions, since for this reason the table is incomplete. The libraries which did not respond have been starred and the information, so far as possible, taken from the "Statistics of Libraries in the U. S. and Canada", issued in 1897 by the U. S. government.

The alphabetic list of the libraries in the state was compiled also from the circular letters, and contains such brief historical mention of each library as could be obtained.



## A History of the Development of Libraries in Michigan.

The history of library interest in Michigan is older than the State itself, and dates back to the latter days of the eighteenth century. As early as 1785, while the Republic was still in its infancy, Congress declared all the land north of the Ohio river to constitute the Territory of the Northwest, and two years later passed the Ordinance, known as the "Immortal Ordinance of 1787," for the government of the region. So wise and comprehending were the terms in which this Ordinance was framed, it has long stood as a monument to the foresight of the early lawmakers of the country.

Liberal provision was made for education, the Ordinance declaring that "Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and all means of education shall forever be encouraged." It was this provision which gave, even in the early days of the Territory, encouragement to the library as a "means of education."

Congress supplemented its Ordinance by giving, during the next few years, generous grants from the public domain to be set aside for educational purposes. These included one section of land in every township, the rents and incomes of which were forever to be devoted to the maintenance of the public schools. As an additional appropriation the people voted the proceeds of all special taxes on railroads and mining corporations. Michigan was laying a firm foundation for the system of education which afterward became so extensive and well known.





In the early days of the Territory and later of the State, libraries were conceived as adjuncts of the schools and not as separate institutions. For this reason Michigan libraries are called indiscriminately "school", "district" or "township" libraries. But close as was the relation of the library to the school the development of the one has been but a puny effort compared with the vigorous growth of the other. The library is the one part of Michigan's educational system for which there is little ground for complacency.

The early days of a state, as of any other political body, are more likely to be filled with the sterner matters of life: the making of laws, the establishment of industries and the conquest of the untilled soil, rather than with the finer ones of education and culture. There were few schools in the Territory at this time and few pupils to attend them, but there were not lacking among the pioneers men who had refinement and learning and to them is due, in a great part, the legislation whereby collections of books for teacher and pupil were made compulsory.

In the year 1831, the Legislative Council, for by this time Michigan had become an individual territory, provided that "Any seven or more persons capable of controlling in any township or district might organize themselves into a corporation for the purpose of maintaining a library, to be known as the "Social library No. - of the township of - ." This was the first direct mention of library organization in the laws of the Territory.

The "social" libraries were one of the earliest forms of library development and were known by the various names of proprietary, subscription and social libraries and library associations. Few bearing the title of "Social libraries" exist today, although we have essentially the same thing in the Ladies Library Associations which



are, without exception, forms of subscription libraries.

Michigan enjoys the distinction of being the first state to incorporate into its constitution, adopted in 1835, provision for libraries as a part of the educational system of the State. Imitating the form adopted by the Council the clause was made to read: "As soon as the circumstances of the State will permit the Legislature shall provide for the establishment of libraries one in each township, and the money which shall be paid by persons as an equivalent for exemption from military duty and the clear proceeds of all fines assessed in the several counties for any breach of the penal laws shall be exclusively applied to the support of said libraries." (Art. 10, Sec. 4. Law of 1835) This statute remained practically unchanged until 1859, except that in 1850 the phrase "as an exemption from military duty" was struck out.

Two statements in this clause are worthy of note as being the cause of much future discussion. They are: "One (library) in each township" and "The clear proceeds of all fines.... shall be exclusively applied to the support of said libraries." The former we shall discuss here, the latter is reserved for later mention.

The system of township libraries was this: A library for each township in the State, which was required to spend annually twenty-five dollars of the mill tax for education for the purchase of books. The books were divided among the districts by the town clerk, who was librarian ex officia. The director of the district loaned them to the people, with whom they remained for three months, when they were gathered in and returned to the township clerk and a new supply received. It will be seen the system was essentially the same as the modern one of traveling libraries, a plan good in its conception and failing only from insufficient support and inefficient





administration.

As is often the case the actual results were far less satisfactory than the ones hoped for. Theoretically the township library system was excellent, but the actual results, as time evolved them, were these: the library often remained in the office of the township clerk, because the director failed to apply for it and there was no provision for sending it out; the books became scattered among the families in the district, as was but natural with no one especially interested in their return; the losses were so numerous the collections became impoverished and funds for new books were lacking.

The annual appropriation of \$25.00 was not munificent, but would have kept the library in good repair had it been judiciously expended. That this was not the case is shown by the presence in the lists of such books as "The pirates own book", and "The lives of celebrated murderers", and by the fact that often the whole year's allowance was put into a single work of reference, suitable only for a large library, or into an expensive subscription book, which some scheming book-agent had sold to the township board.

During the years 1845-55 the township libraries went into a decline. The people ceased to have any interest in them except to complain of their inefficiency and to demand some other system. But one favorable report for this period is found. It is contained in Mr. Edward's "Memoirs of Libraries." (Book 4 p. 240) and reads:

"There are (1847) but 300 township libraries in 425 townships of the State, from which reports have been received, still there is a gratifying increase in the number of these libraries and the extent of their circulation. There are thirty more such libraries reported this year than last, containing in all 42,926 volumes, which is 6,938 volumes more than they contained in 1846. These libraries circulate



through 1,349 districts which shows an increase of 268 over any previous year. Communications received from several counties afford very gratifying evidence of this increased usefulness." This report was far more encouraging than any contemporary report. The general expression was depressing in the extreme.

It is quite true that in some counties, for instance, the large, well populated, mercantile communities where the penal fines were large and well expended, the township libraries enjoyed a strong, well-nourished existence and were the source of much benefit to their users. But these instances were rather the exception than the rule.

Had the makers of the law of 1835 been able to foresee the results of their legislation, Michigan libraries would doubtless have died in their infancy. Such knowledge was impossible, and indeed, experience gained in one way is as valuable as that obtained in another. The years 1830-50 were formative ones for the State as well as for its constituent parts and the township library was not the only institution which had to struggle for existence. It must be remembered that at this time no State in the Union had developed a complete library system. With the possible exception of New York Michigan has made a more thorough trial of the township, district and school library than any other state or territory. The experiment of township libraries was not in vain, for not only had the mind of the people been prepared for more extensive work but Michigan had served as an example to other states and for this reason deserves to be remembered among the pioneers in library work.

In his report for 1859 the Superintendent of Public Instruction makes these valuable and pertinent remarks: "The township library is ordinarily too far removed from the great mass of the





children. Those living in the remote districts can scarcely be expected to go three or four, often five miles to get books. None but inveterate readers, those who have formed the taste for books will do this, and if the library be distributed in parcels quarterly to the districts the advantages claimed for a large circulation of books in the township library are mostly sacrificed: we have simple district libraries with the disadvantage that they are imperfect in character, since no large library, without duplicates, can be divided so as to make several good small libraries; they are temporary in tenure, not remaining to be read throughout the district and reread until known and mastered; and the district feeling only a divided and partial ownership in the books they are more liable to be lost or destroyed. The forty-two volumes of the district library would be of far higher utility in the district, than any district can gain from its interest in the 308 volumes of the township library, except it be the central district where the township library is located."

These remarks voice the popular wish that, the township library being acknowledged a failure, the libraries might be divided into smaller collections to become the property of the district, increasing as each district was able to provide for it.

Under act approved February 15, 1859, the question of retaining the township libraries or dividing the same into district libraries was submitted to all the townships in the state at the spring election. Unfortunately the time between the passage of the bill and the election was so short the townships were but imperfectly notified and a full vote was not made. About two-thirds of the townships made the proposed change, thus ushering in the third phase of Michigan's library development.



It is pertinent here to note the fact that while Michigan was seeking to exchange her system of township libraries to one of district collections Wisconsin, a neighboring state, was endeavoring to unite her small, almost insignificant district libraries in one large, splendid township library. Michigan had seen her large, splendid township collection scattered broadcast, valuable to no one. Each state was learning by experience.

After the change of system the first reports show that the districts received their books promptly and were apparently satisfied. The selection of books had been vastly improved, since the Legislature had authorized the State Board of Education to prepare a list of books suitable for district libraries and had prohibited the libraries buying from other sources. A list of five hundred books was prepared and proposals of terms invited by advertising. The contract was awarded to F. Raymond and Co. of Detroit, who were instructed to put the books into strong, durable bindings lettered "Michigan School Library". The selection was good and the prices obtained were far more moderate than could have been secured in any other way. But here again the future had disaster in store. The law was soon violated to the extent of buying from other than the prescribed lists from which few books were chosen. Orders grew smaller. Booksellers declined to bid for the contract and since 1865 the lists have not existed.

The act of 1859, otherwise provident, had one omission which soon proved serious. In removing the township library the Legislature had abolished the annual appropriation of \$25.00, and had made it optional with the township to raise the money for district libraries, aside from the penal fines. Very few townships (30 in 1873) voted





any money for the purpose, and as a result the libraries were soon poverty stricken.

Only in counties like Wayne, which contains not only a large municipal district but also certain reformatory institutions were the penal fines considerable. In the agricultural counties they were hardly worth the mentioning. This money was not intended, in the original law, as a support to libraries but to be merely incidental and to "make the penalty for crime aid in preventing crime by an increased intelligence."

It has been stated before that the first library law made it obligatory with the collectors of these fines to use them for the purchase of books for the libraries. That this law was violated many times there is no question. Less than one half the money collected was turned over to the libraries. The report of school moneys for 1875 shows:

Paid for district libraries during the year, \$13,380.98					
"	"	Township	"	"	"
					<u>5,454.54</u>
Total					18,835.52
Library fund amounted to					40,392.12

leaving a deficit of \$21,556.60 unaccounted for. This misappropriation of public moneys has been commented upon by other states, and was doubly unfortunate when Michigan libraries were fairly begging for funds to keep themselves alive.

Notwithstanding the loyal efforts of the Superintendents of Public Instruction, who had library interest at heart, as is shown by their urgent appeals to the people to support this branch of education, the district libraries shared the fate of their predecessors, and were pronounced failures. In 1871 no libraries were reported





in the 2,540 districts in townships supposed to have the district system. This was 220 less than the previous year. In 1876 one third of the counties in the State made no appropriation for either the district or township libraries.

In the reports of the Superintendents of instruction, made at this time, we find three comments: "The district library has proved a failure." "It cannot be concealed no very popular interest is felt in these libraries." "It is impossible to maintain district libraries in other than graded districts."

In 1880-81 there was a partial awakening to the interests of the township and district libraries. Circulars containing lists of books to be furnished at contract prices were sent out by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. They called forth many replies and the report for 1881 shows an increase of 71 township libraries over the previous year. Yet there were 315 townships from which nothing was heard. General opinion seemed to favor the township rather than the district library, though in many townships both systems existed. Out of 1,035 townships in the State 334 supported township, and 701 district libraries. It should also be stated that in the 701 townships supposed to have the district system, there were only 1,268 libraries reported, or an average of less than two libraries to each township. This double headed system caused much trouble among the districts. Fractional districts belonging to adjoining townships which had a different system found much difficulty in having their library rights adjusted.

The renaissance of township and district libraries was but temporary, and by 1883 they had settled back into even greater inactivity. The reasons for this failure are not hard to see. In the



main they are the same that caused the overthrow of the township library. The patent one was the lack of funds. In abolishing the annual appropriation the Legislature had done them a fatal injury. At best their existence had been a precarious one. The misappropriation of the money from the penal fines left them utterly without support. No life can be maintained without nourishment, much less can a healthy existence be assured. The books selected were not of the best. Since the lists drawn up by the State Board of Education had been discontinued, the township boards had become careless in selection, and the books were often of the class which is harmful to children and worthless to older persons.

The district library had, however, served its purpose. It had taught the need of the "best reading, for the largest number, at the least cost." It stands as a connecting link between the old system and the new: the school and the city library.

The free public library was a distinct step in library development. Mr. Edwards says: "Up to the year 1848, no Town or City Library, strictly so called, existed in the breadth of the Union." In 1849 New Hampshire passed a general library law, the first legislation of its kind. Michigan, in 1876, followed the lead of other western states and adopted a general library law, and in 1877 a free public library law. (See Act 164, Public Acts 1877)





## ACT 164, PUBLIC ACTS 1877

### ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE CITIES, INCORPORATED VILLAGES, AND TOWNSHIPS TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS.

Section 1. The People of the State of Michigan enact, That the city council of each incorporated city shall have power to establish and maintain a public library and reading room, for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of such city, and may levy a tax of not to exceed one mill on the dollar annually on all taxable property in the city, such tax to be levied and collected in like manner with other general taxes of said city, and to be known as the "library fund."

Sec. 2. When any city council shall have decided to establish and maintain a public library and reading room under this act, the mayor of such city shall, with the approval of the city council proceed to appoint a board of nine directors for the same, chosen from the citizens at large, with reference to their fitness for such office, and not more than one member of the city council shall be at any one time a member of said board.

Sec. 3. Said directors shall hold office, one-third for one year, one-third for two years, and one-third for three years, from the date of their appointment, and at their first regular meeting shall cast lots for the respective terms, and annually thereafter the mayor shall appoint, as before, three directors, to take the place of the retiring directors, who shall hold office for three years and until their successors are appointed. The mayor may, by and with the consent of the city council, remove any director for misconduct or neglect of duty.

Sec. 4. Vacancies in the board of directors occasioned by removals, resignation or otherwise, shall be reported to the city council, and be

filled in like manner as original appointments, and no director shall receive compensation as such.

Sec. 5. Said directors shall, immediately after appointment, meet and organize, by the election of one of their number president, and by the election of such other officers as they may deem necessary. They shall make and adopt such by-laws, rules and regulations for their own guidance and for the government of the library and reading room, as may be expedient, not inconsistent with this act. They shall have exclusive control of the expenditure of all moneys collected to the credit of the library fund, and of the construction of any library building, and of the supervision, care, and custody of the grounds, rooms, or buildings constructed, leased or set apart for that purpose: *Provided*, That all moneys received for such library shall be deposited in the treasury of said city to the credit of the library fund, and shall be kept separate and apart from other moneys of such city, and drawn upon by the proper officers of said city, upon the properly authenticated vouchers of the library board. Said board shall have power to purchase or lease grounds, to occupy, lease, or erect an appropriate building or buildings for the use of said library; shall have power to appoint a suitable librarian and necessary assistants, and fix their compensation; and shall also have power to remove such appointees; and shall, in general, carry out the spirit and intent of this act in establishing and maintaining a public library and reading room.

Sec. 6. Every library and reading room established under this act shall be forever free to the use of the inhabitants where located, always subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as the library board may adopt; and said board may exclude from the use of said library and reading room any and all persons who shall wilfully violate such rules.

Sec. 7. The said board of directors shall make, at the end of each and every year from and after the organization of such library, a report to the city council, stating the condition of their trust at the date of such report, the various sums of money received from the library fund and from other sources, and how such moneys have been expended, and for what purposes; the number of books and periodicals on hand; the number added by purchase, gift, or otherwise during the year; the number lost or missing; the number of visitors attending; the number of books loaned out, and the general character and kind of such books, with such other statistics, information, and suggestions as they may deem of general interest. All such portions of said report as relate to the receipt and expenditure of money, as well as the number of books on hand, books lost or missing, and books purchased, shall be verified by affidavit.

Sec. 8. The city council of said city shall have power to pass ordinances imposing suitable penalties for the punishment of persons committing injury upon such library, or the grounds or other property thereof, or for wilful injury to or failure to return any book belonging to such library.

Sec. 9. Any person desiring to make donations of money, personal property, or real estate for the benefit of such library, shall have the right to vest the title to (the) money or real estate so donated in the board of directors created under this act, to be held and controlled by such board, when accepted, according to the terms of the deed, gift, devise, or bequest of such property; and as to such property, the said board shall be held and considered to be special trustees.

Sec. 10. When fifty voters of any incorporated village or township shall present a petition to the clerk of the village, or township, asking that a tax may be levied for the establishment of a free public library, in such village or township, and shall specify in their petition the rate of taxation, not to exceed one mill on the dollar, such clerk shall, in the next legal notice of the regular annual election in such village or township, give notice that at such election every voter may vote "for a mill tax for a free public library," or, "against a mill tax for a free public library," specifying in such notice the rate of taxation mentioned in such petition; and if the majority of all the votes cast in such village or township shall be for the tax for a free public library, the tax specified in such notice shall be levied and collected in like manner with other general taxes of said village or township, and shall be known as the "library fund;" and when such free public library shall have been established, and a board of directors elected and qualified, as hereinafter provided, it shall be the duty of such board of directors, on or before the first Monday of September in each year, to prepare an estimate of the amount of money necessary for the support and maintenance of such library for the ensuing year, not exceeding one mill on the dollar of the taxable property of such village or township, and report such estimate to the assessor of such village, or the supervisor of such township, for assessment and collection, the same as other village or township taxes, and the same shall be so assessed and collected; and the corporate authorities of any such villages or townships may exercise the same powers conferred upon the corporate authorities of cities under this act.

Sec. 11. At the next regular election after any village, or township shall have voted to establish a free public library, there shall be elected a library board of six directors—one-third for one year, one-third for two years, and one-third for three years; and annually thereafter there

shall be elected two directors, who shall hold their office for three years, and until their successors are elected and qualified; which board shall have the same powers as are by this act conferred upon the board of directors of free public libraries in cities.

Sec. 12. This act shall not apply to cities or villages containing a population of over ten thousand, or to any city or village maintaining a public library under any special act.







The latter provided for city, town and village libraries under the control of a board of directors nominated by the mayor and approved by the city council. A tax of two mills on the dollar for towns and villages, one mill for cities less than 100,000 inhabitants one fifth mill in cities over 100,000 was levied. Several years later (1887) this act was ammended to provide that "where a free public library had been established in any town, the board of directors shall on or before the 1st. Monday of September of each year prepare an estimate of the amount of money necessary for the maintenance of such library for the ensuing year, not exceeding one mill on the dollar of the taxable property of the town, and the estimate shall be spread on the tax rolls and collected the same as other taxes. Property of all library institutions is exempted from taxation."

The free public library law caused much discussion, but was on the whole favorably received. Meetings were called and library questions discussed, but apparently few cities availed themselves of the privilege. Statistics collected from 103 libraries in 1887 report only three free public libraries founded at this time.

From 1887 to the present time little change has been made in existing library laws, yet Michigan has felt the influence of the general increase in interest, both national and international, in library affairs. The Michigan Library Association, organized in 1891, has had annual meetings since that date. Its purpose is to excite interest in library economy, and to be a means of education and encouragement to the smaller libraries throughout the state. The meetings are held in different library centers, and result not only in benefit for the librarians attending, but serve to awaken the interest of the general public in library matters.



For some years the need of a Library Commission has been felt in the State, but before 1899 no legislation could be secured. Last year, however, the Legislature created a State Library Commission formed in the same manner as those of other states. It consists of five members appointed by the Governor and serving without remuneration. Its special effort is to be directed toward encouraging the establishment of new libraries, though it is ready on all occasions to give advice concerning library management. The State Librarian, acting as secretary, is an ex officio member of the Commission.

The State Library of Michigan is and always has been the center of library interest in the State. Established in 1828, it has grown with the State until now in size, scope and purpose it is foremost among State libraries. Before a Library Commission was thought of the State Library was the means of disseminating library information through the State. By means of the "Associate" and "Traveling" libraries it is in touch with the general public. The Public Acts for 1895 - Sec. 11-17 reads:





SEC. 9. The State librarian shall exchange the judicial decisions, statutes, journals, legislative and executive documents of Michigan, and other books placed in the care of the State librarian for the purpose of exchange, with the libraries of other states and the government of the United States, and of foreign countries, and with societies and institutions. The State librarian may sell or exchange duplicate volumes or sets of works not needed for use in the State library and apply the proceeds to the purchase of other books for the library.

Librarian authorized to exchange books, statutes, etc.

SEC. 10. The sum of five thousand dollars, to be assessed, levied and collected in the same manner as other State taxes, is hereby appropriated for each of the years eighteen hundred ninety-five and eighteen hundred ninety-six for the purchase of books and such other material as is appropriate to be added to the State library. The money so appropriated shall be drawn from the State treasury upon the warrant of the Auditor General and shall be expended by the State librarian with the advice and consent of the Governor for the purchase of books, pamphlets, papers, maps, documents and other matter for the library and for other purposes of benefit and advantage to said library.

Appropriation for the purchase of books.

How drawn.

SEC. 11. Any public, incorporated, school or college library in the State having not less than one thousand volumes, other than publications furnished by the State, may, upon compliance with the provisions of the rules prescribed by the library committee, become an "associate library" with the State library and be entitled to all the privileges accorded by this act to associate libraries. It shall be the duty of the State librarian to issue, to any eligible library complying to the rules above mentioned, a certificate of association showing that such library has become an "associate library." The associate relationship may be terminated at any time by a surrender of said certificate and the return of all books belonging to the State library, whereupon the State librarian shall return to the librarian of such associate library any bonds or deposits held for the return of books. The associate relationship may also be terminated by a violation of such rules as the library committee may prescribe.

Who may become associate libraries.

When associate libraries may terminate relationship.

SEC. 12. The librarian of every such associate library shall make an annual report to the State librarian of the names of its directors, trustees or managers, the number of volumes contained in such library and the number of volumes drawn therefrom during the preceding year. Such report shall be made at the close of the fiscal year of such associate library. The librarian shall also report at once any changes made in its directors or officers during the year.

Associate librarian to make annual report to State librarian.

SEC. 13. Under such reasonable rules and regulations as may be prescribed therefor, the State librarian, upon the requisition of the librarian of any associate library, may lend to such associate library any book which may be called for by any patron of such associate library, except such books, pamphlets, papers, maps, or documents as, in the discretion of the State librarian cannot, consistently with the best interests of the State library, be

State librarian may lend books to associate library.

Proviso as to. allowed to be taken therefrom: *Provided*, That all expense of transportation shall in all cases be paid by the associate library borrowing such book or other property.

When State librarian may give advice to associate librarian. SEC. 14. The directors, trustees, or managers, or the librarian of any associate library shall be entitled to ask from the State librarian any needed advice or instruction as to a library building, furniture, equipment, government, service, rules for readers, selecting, buying, cataloguing, shelving, lending books, or other matter pertaining to the establishment, reorganization or administration of a public library. It shall be the duty of the State librarian to impart any such advice or instruction in his possession, whenever requested by any officer of an associate library.

Violation of rules to debar associate libraries from privileges. SEC. 15. If the responsible officers or managers of any associate library shall disregard, violate or refuse to comply with the rules and regulations relative to the loaning of books, such associate library shall be debarred from the privileges granted by this act.

State librarian to keep record of associate libraries. SEC. 16. The State librarian shall keep a complete record of associate libraries and of the transactions therewith, and shall include in his report to the legislature a summary of the facts set forth in the application of such libraries, together with such other matters relating to such libraries as may be of public interest and value.

Appropriation for Michigan traveling library. SEC. 17. There shall be appropriated from the treasury of the State, from funds not otherwise appropriated, the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars for the purchase of books and equipment of libraries which shall be designated as "Michigan Traveling Libraries." Under such rules as the library committee may prescribe, they may lend from the State library duplicate department, or from books specially given or bought for this purpose, selections of books for a limited time to any library in this State, or to any community not yet having established such library, but which has conformed to the conditions in said rules required for such loans.

Repealing clause. SEC. 18. All acts or parts of acts so far as they contravene the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Approved March 20, 1895.





The results of the establishment of these associate libraries were most satisfactory, since the people of the State were brought to feel a more pronounced interest in the State Library. In 1895 ten libraries became "Associate", and in 1898 the number had become twenty-six. The report of the State Librarian for that year has this item: "The more important advantages of the associate libraries are the shipment of all State publications direct to the libraries, and the privileges given to patrons of the associate libraries of drawing books for a limited time from the State Library. The results obtained from these privileges have been most satisfactory."

Michigan was the second state to introduce a system of traveling libraries, since the Public Acts of 1895 (Section 17) also provided for this<sup>div</sup> establishment. The sum of \$2,500 was ordered appropriated annually for the purchase and equipment of these libraries. They are sent to reading clubs, granges, twenty-five taxpayers in any community and to associate libraries. Their success has been assured from the first. In fact the demand has exceeded the supply. The libraries have usually gone to small towns and farming communities. In 1896 forty-four such libraries were sent out, and in 1898 the number had increased to 135. The system in use in Michigan differs somewhat from that in the neighboring state of Wisconsin, and more nearly resembles that of New York from which, indeed, it was modeled. In Wisconsin the libraries are sent out by the Library Commission, and circulate exclusively among the remote rural districts, while in New York the libraries are sent from the State Library to clubs and art circles. The work that Michigan is accomplishing proves that much can be done along the very lines she is pursuing.





Looking back over a century's development in Michigan libraries, we can see how each change has been in the line of growth, slow but constant. Through the various phases of subscription, township, district, school, town and traveling library the State has been gaining experience that will make the library service of the future more efficient. Everywhere library work is developing. All the States are broadening the legislation, and increasing the possibilities of their libraries. Michigan has held a foremost place in every line of advancement and in this, one of the greatest developments of the century, her proud position must be upheld.



## ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

URBANA, ILL., Nov. 25, 1899.

### TO THE LIBRARIAN :

You may be aware that at the recent meeting of the M. L. A. a proposal was laid before the association concerning the collection of library statistics. The plan suggested was, briefly, this: to issue circular letters to all public, school and society libraries in Michigan, asking for answers to an enclosed list of questions. The material when collected is to take the form of a thesis which shall be an exhaustive history of library progress in Michigan. The object is to make available to everybody as full a fund of information as possible on the subject, for the furthering of library interests throughout the state. The suggestion received the hearty support of the association, and it is with their full consent and assurance of coöperation that the present letters are issued.

Will you answer the enclosed questions as fully as possible in the blank space left for the purpose, and, if necessary or desirable, supplement the list by a letter giving any other information of special interest? Replies are desired at as early a date as possible. When filled out the lists are to be sent to Olive C. Lathrop, Illinois State Library School, Urbana, Ill. Miss Lathrop is a senior student in the library school, and the statistics will be compiled by her as a thesis to be presented for graduation, and a copy will be printed in the annual report of the M. L. A.

25. What class ranks second in circulation?
26. What class ranks third in circulation?
27. By whom is the library most used?
28. Is there a reading and reference room in connection with the library?
29. Is the public admitted directly to the shelves? If so, state to what extent.
30. Does the library have a separate children's room or department?
31. To what extent does the library coöperate with the public schools?
32. Is an annual report of the library published in any form? If possible send copy.
33. What is the total income of the library annually?
34. Name of present librarian?
35. Amount paid librarian per annum for services?
36. Number of assistants?
37. Send completed lists to OLIVE C. LATHROP, Illinois State Library School, Urbana, Illinois.







Location	Name of library	Date of founding	How supported	Classification	Catalogue	Kind or kinds of literature in which library is strongest	Spec- Bound vols June 1 1893	Un- Bound vols added during year	Number
1	Adrian college	1853	Fees donations	By subjects Fixed location	subject & author cards printed cat	Theology U.S. History	6000	1000	1000
2	Public school library for girls	1865	R Tax'n	F			15000	1000	1000
3	State Industrial Home						1000		
4	Albion college	1861	App'n	F Dewey	Amer. card index	Theology	2000	1235	5000
5	Ladies Library Ass'n	1870		S			2463		103
6	Public school library	1876	Tax'n	F Dewey	card catalog	Science	1500	150	175
7	Township library	1878	Tax'n	F			1000		115
8	Alma College	1889					17233	10308	401
9	Public school library	1885	Tax'n Tax'n fines	F	Author & subject	U.S. History Biography	1481	792	133
10	Public library	1876		F Dewey	card catalog	History Biography	6468		403
11	Ladies Library Ass'n	1866	Tax'n	F	card catalog		105473	16252	7062
12	School district no 1	1856	Tax'n	F	card and literature printed cat	History Biography	15534	1099	312
13	University of Michigan	1841	Tax'n	F	card and literature printed cat	History Biography	17610	550	1386
14	Battle Creek college	1875	Tax'n	F	card and literature printed cat	History Biography			
15	Public school library	1870	Tax'n	F	card and literature printed cat	History Biography			
16	Public library	1872	Tax'n	F	card and literature printed cat	History Biography			
17	Township library	1896	R						
18	Benton Harbor college	1886							
19	Benzonia college	1891							
20	Public school library	(Has been closed for two years)							
21	Ladies Library Ass'n	1886							
22	Township library								
23	High school library	1897							

GENE DIETZEN CO., CHICAGO







Location	Name of library	Date of founding	Own or rent building	How supported	Classification	Catalogue	Kind or kinds of literature in which library is strongest	Special Collections	Bound vols. June 1 1899	Un-bound vols. added during year 1899	Number of vols. added during year
24 Calumet	Public Library	1880							11	12	13
25 Cassopolis	Library Association	1871									
26 Charlotte	Public library	1894									
27 Goldwater	Free public library	1881	O	Tax'n	F	Dewey	Printed subject cat.	History Fine arts	14175	2000 <sup>est.</sup>	220
28	State Public School	1874									
29 Crystal Falls	Township school library	1888	Tax'n	F	Fixed location	In school catalog	History		1100	1200	400
30 Detroit	High school		Tax'n								
31	House of correction	1861									
32	Public library	1865	O	Tax'n	F	Dewey	Printed & card cat.	Fiction History	15500		3500
33	Springwells school dis-trict										
34 Eaton Rapids	Public Library	1882	R	Tax'n	F			History Biography		400 <sup>est.</sup>	22
35 Flint	Michigan school for the deaf	1854	App'n	F	By subjects	Printed card catalog	History Fiction	3036			
36	Public library	1855	O	Tax'n	F	Dewey		(Library is reshelving)			
37 Grand Blanc	Public library								3133		30
38 Grand Haven	Public school library	1874	App'n	F	By subjects	Printed & card catalog	Fiction				
39 Grand Rapids	Public school library	1871	Tax'n	F	Dewey	Printed & card catalog	History Fiction	5484	3088 <sup>est.</sup>	3050	
40 Hancock	Public school library	1880	Fines	F	Dewey	Printed		1450	1000 <sup>est.</sup>	50	
41 Hastings	High school										
42 Hillsdale	Hillsdale college	1854									
43	City library										
44 Holland	Graves library. Hope college	1860	Donations	F	Dewey	Printed	Theology		9000	2500 <sup>est.</sup>	20
45	Holland township library	1852	Tax'n	F	not classified				1700		
46 Holly	Ladies library association	1872	R	Fees	3 subjects	Printed	Fiction		1350	11	82



Periodicals to be included in the annual report of the library	Number of books of each kind ranked second circulation	Class of persons by whom library is used	Is public library or school library	Is operation with public schools	Published by the library	Name of present librarian	Total income yearly	Annual salary of librarian
353 1554	600 Fiction Biography Science children	Students yes generally	not	Much	no	Frances H. Scott	none	1200 42
34 300	600 Fiction Biography Science children	yes	no	no work done	no	Agnes Van Orden	none	5048
12	Fiction	Adults yes	no	no	no	Harriet McMillen	2	nothing 50
20 450	Fiction Travel History Prisoners	no	no	no	no	George Dyeinger	1	720 31
15 200	4512 Fiction Biography Literature	High school pupils yes	yes	no in grades	typewritten	E. Amidon	2	200 52
6	10883 Fiction Essays History	General public yes	yes	Much	no	E. W. Fiske	none	600 54
67 1500	85000 Fiction Juvenile History	yes	yes	no work done	no	Celia F. Waldo	6018 83	55
300	Fiction Travel History Prisoners	no	no		yes	H. N. Thompson	2	200 56
128 1600	64130 Fiction Literature History Children	School children yes	no	Books & pictures loaned to schools	no	Isabella C. Roberts	1	600 53
none	Fiction History pedias children	no	no	yes work done	no	George Breault	none	60 60
37 600	30060 Fiction History Travel	General public yes	only in ref. no	Books loaned to schools	no	Abbie F. Gady	1	variable 540 65
11 1200	1248 15885 Fiction Juvenile Literature Children	children general	no	no	no	L. R. Robinson	none	200 62
3 200	Historical Fiction Biography	public	no	no	no	Kate S. Hutchins	1	variable 75 65



Location	Name of library	Date of found.	How supported	Classification	Catalogue	Kind or kinds of literature in which library is strongest	Special Collections 1893	Bound vols June 1 1893	Un-bound vols added during year
1		3	1	2	8	3	10	11	12
41	Houghton								
42	"								
43	Howell								
50	Ionia								
51	"								
52	Iron mountain								
53	Iron wood								
54	Ishpeming								
55	Jackson								
56	"								
57	Jonesville								
58	Kalamazoo								
59	"								
60	Lake Linden								
61	Lansing								
62	"								
63	"								
64	"								
65	"								
66	Lapeer								
67	Lowell								
68	Ludington								
69	Manistee								







Location	Name of library	Date of founding	How supported	How classified	Catalogue	Kind or kinds of literature in which library is strongest	Un-Number Bound of vols added during year
1		3	+	6	8	5	10 11 12 13
70 Manistique	Schooldistrict library	1895		By subjects	Printed & card catalog	Fiction History Fiction History	Est 50 60
71 Marquette	Peter White public library	1891	O Tax'n	F Dewey		Science	Est 3000 302
72 Marshall	High school						
73	Public school library	1884	Tax'n			Fiction	Est 800 175
74 Mendon	Mendon township free	1880	R Tax'n	F	Classified catalogue (see class)	Fiction History	4000 none none none
75 Menominee	City library	1872	R Tax'n	F	not classified Author cat.	History	4638 600 266
76 Midland	Public school library		Tax'n	F	Printed		
77 Monroe	City library	1837	R App'n	F	Written cat.		
78 Mt. Clemens	Public library	1891	Tax'n	F	Dictionary card catalog		Est 1000 500
79 Mt. Pleasant	Central state normal	1897	App'n	F Dewey	card catalog		Est 10000 4151
80 Muskegon	Hackley public library	1888	O Endow	F Dewey			
81 Negaunee	Public library	1860	Tax'n	F	Partly cataloged		Est 500 150
82 Niles	School library	1862	Tax'n	F			
83 North Detroit	Hamtramck township		Tax'n	F			
84 Northville	Ladies Library Ass'n	1888	O				
85 Ogdon	Township library	1871					
86 Olivet	Olivet college	1880	Tax'n	F			
87	Watson township library		Tax'n	F			
88 Ontonagon	Township library	Destroyed by fire 1896		by fire		History	
89 Orchard Lake	Michigan Military Academy	1872	O ration	F Dewey	not cataloged	Biography	10000 1500 300
90 Oscoda	Woods Reading Room	1882		F			
91 Otsego	Ladies Library Ass'n						
92 Owosso	Ladies library association	1867	R fines	Under general heads	Printed	Fiction	Est 50 70







Location	Date of founding	How supported	Classification	Kind or kinds of literature in which library is strongest	Un. Number
1	3	4	2	9	10 11 12 13
93 Pentwater Township library		R Tax'n Fines	F not classified not cataloged		2000 1374 none
94 Petoskey District library			By subjects Printed Fiction		
95 " Graves Normal School					
96 Pontiac Eastern Mich. Asylum	1893	Tax'n	By subjects not cataloged Fiction		1800 3000 none
97 " Ladies Library Ass'n	1883	O Fees	Printed Fiction		Est. 125
98 Port Huron Public library		R Tax'n F			
99 Republic Township library	1876	Tax'n Fines			
100 Ridge way Hall Memorial Library	1887	O Fees	not classified not cataloged Science	History	Est. 200 none
101 Saginaw East Hoyt Public library	1883	O fund	Decimal Printed sub. r card cat. Balanced		Est. 400 500
102 " Public Library	1862	R Tax'n F	not classified classed. Alphabetical		11540 528 377
103 Saginaw West Public Union School Dist.	1860	Tax'n F	Printed Fiction		Est. 650 200
104 St. Claire Ladies library	1869				
105 St. Johns Ladies Library Ass'n	1871	R			
106 St. Joseph City School Library		Tax'n Fines	Fixed location Printed Fiction		Est. 300 50 350
107 Sault St. Marie Public Library			Printed History		Est. 2000 100 225
108 Sturgis Township Library	1873	R Tax'n F	By subjects Printed Fiction		Est. 493 150 10
109 Tecumseh Public school library	1883	R Tax'n F	By subjects Printed Alphabetical		Est. 3000 3000 300
110 Three Rivers Free Public Library	1889	R Tax'n F	Author list card or Printed Fiction		Est. 6375 2874 235
111 Traverse City Ladies Library Ass'n	1869		Card cat. printed list Fiction		
112 West Bay City Sage Library	1884	O Tax'n Fines	Dewey not classified Fiction		28302 2096 400 30
113 Weston Fairfield Township					
114 Whitehall Township Library		Tax'n	not classified not cataloged Fiction		1236 none 84
115 W. Landon Public Library	1880				

EUGENE DITZEN CO. CHICAGO



14	Number of periodicals expended	
15	Number of books or periodicals during year	
16	Number of books used for reference during year	
17	Number of books circulated outside library during year	
18	Class of books having largest circulation	
19	Ranking of circulation	
20	Ranking of circulation	
21	Classes of persons whom library most used	
22	Has circulation outside shelves	
23	Is public library	
24	Has reading room	
25	Co-operation with public schools	
26	Annual report published	
27	Name of present librarian	
28	Number of assistants	
29	Total income yearly	
30	Annual salary of librarian	
31	Grades have lib.	
32	no	
33	G.M. Walton	
34	3	
35	2000	
36	240.116	
37	700.117	
38	213-500 Est.	
39	240.116	
40	700.117	
41	240.116	
42	700.117	
43	240.116	
44	700.117	
45	240.116	
46	700.117	
47	240.116	
48	700.117	
49	240.116	
50	700.117	
51	240.116	
52	700.117	
53	240.116	
54	700.117	
55	240.116	
56	700.117	
57	240.116	
58	700.117	
59	240.116	
60	700.117	
61	240.116	
62	700.117	
63	240.116	
64	700.117	
65	240.116	
66	700.117	
67	240.116	
68	700.117	
69	240.116	
70	700.117	
71	240.116	
72	700.117	
73	240.116	
74	700.117	
75	240.116	
76	700.117	
77	240.116	
78	700.117	
79	240.116	
80	700.117	
81	240.116	
82	700.117	
83	240.116	
84	700.117	
85	240.116	
86	700.117	
87	240.116	
88	700.117	
89	240.116	
90	700.117	
91	240.116	
92	700.117	
93	240.116	
94	700.117	
95	240.116	
96	700.117	
97	240.116	
98	700.117	
99	240.116	
100	700.117	



Location	Name of library	Date of founding	Number of volumes	How supported	Classification	Catalogue	Kind or kinds of literature in which library is strongest	Spec. collections	Bound vols. June 1899	Un-bound vols. June 1899	Number of vols. added during year
1		5	2	How supported	6	Dictionary	9	10	11	12	13
116	Ypsilanti Public school library	1869		Taxin fines	7	card. cat.	History		3103		646
117	State Normal School	1853		State F Dewey		Dictionary card cat.	Literature		21000		1000



## Appendix B.

Adrian. - Public School Library.

In August 1869 the school library was incorporated. In 1889 the ladies of the city presented their Ladies Library, and the library was moved from the school building to the City Hall and opened to the public. The ground floor is given up to the library, and for it the nominal rent of \$50.00 is asked. Much attention is paid to the work in the schools.

Adrian. - State Industrial Home for Girls.Albion. - College Library.

" Ladies Library Association.

" Public School Library.

Allegan. - Township Library.Alma. - College Library.

" Public School Library.

Alpena. - Public Library.

The Alpena public library had its beginning in a school collection. In 1876 it received the donation of the Ladies Library, heretofore a subscription library. Several years later the name of the Alpena Public Library was given it, although it is still contained in the school library.

Ann Arbor. - General Library of the University of Michigan.

The library has grown with the university. Started in 1841 it has always been a prominent feature in the work of the college. Many generous gifts have been made. These include: Parsons Library (political economy), 4,325 volumes and 5,000 pamphlets, McMillan Shakespeare Library, 4,624 volumes; Hagerman collection (history and political science), 2,666 volumes; Goethe Library, 948 volumes;



Dorsch Library (miscellaneous), 1,676 volumes and 148 pamphlets.

Ann Arbor.- Ladies Library Association.

\_\_\_\_\_ School District No. 1.

Battle Creek.- College.

Battle Creek.- Public School Library.

Organized in 1870 under its present name. The library is an outgrowth of an original township library. When organized it became the property of the school, and the school board was made responsible for its control. There is a \$10000 bequest from the will of the late Henry P. Denman, the interest of which is expended for books. In the will of the late Charles Milard was mentioned a bequest of \$40000 for a library building. It is hoped that this will soon be erected.

Bay City.- Public Library.

In 1869 Mr. B. E. Warren, Mr. H. B. Loudon, Judge H. H. Hatch, Mr. L. Beckwith, Mr. Geo. H. Von Etten, Mr. H. H. Carrington and Mr. A. J. Cooke organized an association library. This was continued until 1877, when it was incorporated as a Free Public Library under the control of the School Board.

Bellevue.- Township Library.

Benton Harbor.- College.

—"Benton Harbor receives \$7,000 for a public library by the will of the late Melissa E. Terry." Pub. Lib. 4:233.

Benzonia.-

Big Rapids.-

Birmingham.-

Buchanan.-

Cadillac.- Public Library.

The library was the result of activity on the part of the





Ladies Literary Society, and was incorporated as a Public Library in August 1897. The library is a subscription library. The fees are \$1.00 per year, or \$10.00 for life membership.

Calumet opened a free public library May 1, 1896, with 3500 volumes. While provided for the use of the schools primarily, its books are at the service of the citizens of Calumet. The library rooms are centrally located and fitted up with the best modern appliances, having steel shelving, a card dictionary catalog and a condensed charging system. James Jones is librarian.

Pub. Lib. 1:60.

Cassopolis.- Library Association.

Charlotte.- Public Library.

Coldwater.- Free Public Library.

Like many other libraries the Coldwater library had its foundation in the Ladies Library Association. This was in 1869. In 1881 the city was offered the books already collected by the association. The gift was gladly accepted and the Free Public Library was organized. The library is fortunate in having been the recipient of a collection of valuable art books numbering 3000, given by the late H. C. Lewis.

Crystal Falls.-

Detroit.- High School.

" House of Correction.

" Public Library.

Detroit has one of the most efficient libraries in the State. It was founded in 1865 by the Board of Education, but is now under the control of the City. An especial feature is the school libraries which contain some 8000 volumes.



Eaton Rapids.--

Flint.-- Michigan School for the Deaf.

" Public Library.

Grand Blanc.--

Grand Haven.--

Grand Rapids.-- Public School Library.

The library of School district No.1 --- township, formed the nucleus for this library. To this were added in 1871 the collection of the Ladies Library Association, the Y.M.C.A. library and the West Side school library, making a substantial foundation for the public library, which now contains over 50000 volumes. The library occupies rooms in the City Hall, for which no rent is paid.

Hancock.-- School Library.

This is another instance of the township library being transferred to the school. The library is kept in the Public School Building, and is under the control of the Superintendent of Schools, who appoints a pupil as librarian.

Hastings.-- High School.

Hillsdale.-- College Library.

" City Library.

The late C. T. Mitchell of Hillsdale gave that city in his will his fine residence and the beautiful grounds surrounding it for a public library. The gift also included \$10,000 for books and furnishings.

Holland.-- Groves Library - Hope College.

" Township Library.

This is one of the few remaining township libraries. It contains about 1700 books which are kept at the residence of the





township clerk. It has no classification and but a partial catalogue.

Holly.- Ladies Library Association.

This library was organized in 1877 with 75 members, announcing as its object, "To afford and encourage useful and entertaining reading." It is a subscription library with a fee of \$1.00 yearly for each member. The library also receives the proceeds of a lecture course. It is open two hours each Saturday afternoon.

Houghton.- Michigan Mining School.

" Public School Library.

In 1890 the Board of Education took advantage of the Library Law and established the Houghton Public School Library. It occupies a room in the high school, and is used largely by the pupils.

Howell.- Ladies Library Association.

Ionia.- Ladies Library Association.

The Ionia library was entirely destroyed by fire two years ago. At present it is building up from the bottom. It was first organized in 1875 and was and is a subscription library.

Ionia.- State House of Correction.

Iron Mountain.- Public School Library.

Following the plan adopted by most high school libraries, this library is kept in the High School Building where it is accessible to the students. A separate collection of 768 volumes circulate from building to building, and form a school traveling library.

Ironwood.- City Library.

Ishpeming.- City Library.

The Ishpeming library is located in the City Hall, and the reports show it is doing very good work. There are about 5700 books and a circulation of 900 a month. There is no certain income yet the library averages an annual addition of 270 volumes.



Jackson.- Michigan State Prison.

" Public Library.

Mr. G. A. W. Dodge and Mr. M. Shoemaker were the founders of the Jackson Public Library which was organized in July, 1885.

The funds were appropriated from the half mill tax. Much valuable work is done with the schools. The librarian is quite in sympathy with modern library methods. A childrens' room is desired,"but the conditions are neither ideal or idyllic."

Jonesville.- Ladies Library Association.

Kalamazoo.- College Library.

" Public Library.

The City library is an outgrowth of the old school library. It was transferred to the City and opened in 1873, and since then has carried its work along the lines of public library work. It owns a beautiful building, an advantage that comparatively few libraries in the State can boast. Books are furnished the various schools, and the children are urged to come to the library.

Lake Linden.- Township Library.

This is one of the township libraries which came into existence about 1870. At present it is kept in the Public School Building, and while it has the name of township library, it bears little resemblance to the old township library, but is rather a school library. It is supported by the penal fines.

Lansing.- Agricultural College.

Industrial School for Boys.

Michigan School for Blind.

" State Library.





Lansing.- Public School Library.

In 1881 the Ladies Library Association offered the Board of Education their collection of books on condition that the Board establish a high school library. The library is, at present, housed in the City Hall, and contains about 9000 books. Books are loaned to the various schools, and the school children are urged to patronize the library. The income is uncertain, depending entirely upon the generosity of the City Council.

Lapeer.- Ladies Library Association.

Lowell.- District Library No. 1.

Of the few district libraries still reporting this is among the largest. It contains about 3000 volumes. Originally it was a much impaired school library. About 1873 the director of schools gathered up the few remaining books, and made them the foundation for a district library. It is located in a building rented by the district, and is supported by taxation. It is hoped to open a reading and reference room the first of next year. The collection is a good beginning for a public library.

Ludington.- Public School Library..

Organized in 1876 the library now contains 3000 volumes besides some 300 unbound pamphlets. It occupies a room in the school building, and is open only on Saturday afternoon, at which time an average of 500 books in winter, and less in summer, circulate, principally among the working men.

Manistee.-

Manistique.- School Library.



Marquette.- Peter White Public Library.

In 1872 the Hon. Peter White founded a public library for the city of Marquette. In 1891 this library was reorganized and put upon its present basis. The building was a gift from Mr. White. The library now contains about 12000 volumes, the circulation including several gifts. A childrens' room is among the plans for the future.

Marshall.- High School.

Public School Library.

Mendon.- Township Free Library.

By vote of the township this library was founded in 1889. Its present quarters are in rented rooms. It has a collection of some 2000 books, mostly fiction and history.

Minominee.- City Library.

The library is occupying rented quarters at present, but since the gift of \$25,000, from Mr. S. N. Stephenson, a new building may be hoped for. The school has a library of its own, but the pupils are urged to come to the Public library for aid in selecting books.

Midland.- Public School Library.

The library is now in the High School Building. The collection of books is small and is used largely by the students. A public library association has been formed, but as yet no books have been secured.





Monroe.- City Library.

An historical sketch of this library may best be found in the following extract from the "History of Monroe County", "I infer from an examination of the old village records that as early as 1828 the village library was under the supervision of the village council, who raised moneys from time to time to sustain a public library, and that a small library was under the charge of the village clerk. When the city of Monroe was incorporated in 1873 the remnants of the old library were transferred to the City, the city clerk acting as librarian. In 1873, under an act of legislation, the City Library was transferred from the common council to the Board of Education, and continues under the charge and control of said Board." This testimony accords to Monroe the distinction of being the oldest, existing public library in Michigan. It is small, containing only about 5000 books, but its circualtion is extremely good. In 1898 it <sup>issued</sup> ~~has~~ 18858 books. The school students are required to read a certain number of books each school term, and this brings them often to the library.

Mount Clemens.-Mount Pleasant.- Normal School.Muskegon.- Hockley Public Library.

Muskegon enjoys one of the most liberally endowed and equipped libraries in the State. It was founded May 25, 1888, by Mr. Charles H. Hockley, from whom the library received its name. It occupies a beautiful building and has an endowment of \$75000, together with \$10000 more for books.





Negaunee.-

Niles.-

North Detroit.-

Ogden.-

Olivet.- College.

" Watton Township Library.

Ontonagon.- Township Library.

Reports state that since the fire of 1896 no Outonagon township library has existed.

Orchard Lake.-

Oscoda.-

Otsego.-

"On account of a lack of interest of the ladies of Otsego the question is being agitated of giving the building and books owned by the ladies to the township for their use as a public library. The ladies own a fine building and have eight hundred books and are free of debt.

Detroit Evening News.

Owasso.- Ladies Library and Literary Association.

The library is a subscription library, founded in 1867. It occupies rented quarters, and contains about 2600 books. Any pupil or teacher can draw books by becoming a member of the association or by paying 5 cents a week.



Pentwater.- Township Library.

This is a general public township library supported by taxation and free to the general public. It is neither catalogued nor classified, but contains about 2000 books.

Phoenix.-Plainwell.-Pontiac.- Eastern Michigan Asylum.

" Ladies Library.

The Pontiac library is, like many others in the State, a subscription library with a fee of \$1.00 per year. Little interest is shown in the library, and although Pontiac has a population of 14000 there are but 125 or 6 members of the library association. The library was organized in 1882, and incorporated a year later. The present quarters are in the Stout Memorial Library Building, which is somewhat out of the center of population. The library has received gifts amounting to \$2000. Since there is a school library in the city, no work is done with the schools.

"The Port Huron Public Library was opened with appropriate ceremonies on the morning of July 7, 1896. The building is not large but is well adapted to the purpose."

Public Libraries 1:154.

Republic.-Ridgeway.-

Jonathan Hall Memorial Library occupies the rather unusual position of being an endowed, subscription library. The building is the gift of Rufus T. Busch and contains about 1700 books.





The library is neither catalogued nor classified and keeps no record of its circulation.

Saginaw, East- Hoyt Public Library.

The Hoyt Public Library is the gift of Mr. Jesse Hoyt of New York to the city of Saginaw . It was first given in 1883, but was not open to the public until 1891, when it contained 20000 volumes. The library represents all classes except fiction. Only 365 novels were issued last year. Work with the schools is encouraged. The pupils of the <sup>2</sup>9th. and <sup>1</sup>8th. grades have five tables reserved for their use in one of the study rooms.

Saginaw, East.-

The Public Library is one of the few Michigan libraries employing a system of branch libraries. These are located in the various schools, and are much used by the children.

Saginaw, West.- Public Library of Union School District.

The library was founded in 1860, but in 1895 all records were lost by fire. At present the library is occupying rooms in one of the school buildings. There is a reading room where the reference books are shelved. Admittance to these shelves is <sup>free</sup> fully granted.

St. Clair.-

St. John.-

St. Joseph.-

The City School Library was started as a township library but the books were transferred to the city when the township library went out of favor. It is a joint city and school library, and though kept in the office of the Supt. of Schools is open to the public for lending and reference.





Sault St. Marie.- Public Library.

This library is located in the school building, and as a result is used largely by the pupils of the school. Fiction and History have the largest circulation. There are 2000 books.

Sturgis.- City Library.

Organized in 1873 as a private subscription library the books were, in 1881, turned over to the School District and made a district library. In 1883 the library was changed to a township library under which form it remained until 1896, when it became the property of the city. It contains 4495 books. Free access is granted to the shelves in the reading room.

Tecumseh.- Public School Library.

Mrs. A. P. Lee, Mrs. Alice Hordonburg, Mrs. E. B. Wood and others became interested in library work, and in 1883 founded the library. It is free to members of the school district, but outside residents pay \$1.00 per year for its use.

Three Rivers.-

The Free Public Library was organized in 1889 by Edward B. Linsley. At present it occupies rented quarters and is supported by taxation. It is open to the public for reading and reference.

Traverse City.-

West Bay City.- High School.



West Bay City.- Sage Library.

This library had its promoter in Mr. H. W. Sage who has given \$10000, together with \$1000 annually, the latter to be spent for books, with the provision that the city furnish an equal amount. The library occupies a building which has taken its name from Mr. Sage. It contains 28,302 books. There is no special cooperation with the public schools.

Weston.- Fairfield Township Library.

The library is kept at the residence of the township clerk, and is supported by penal fines.

Whitehall.- Township Library.

This is a small collection of 1,236 books kept at the residence of the librarian. It is free for reading and reference.

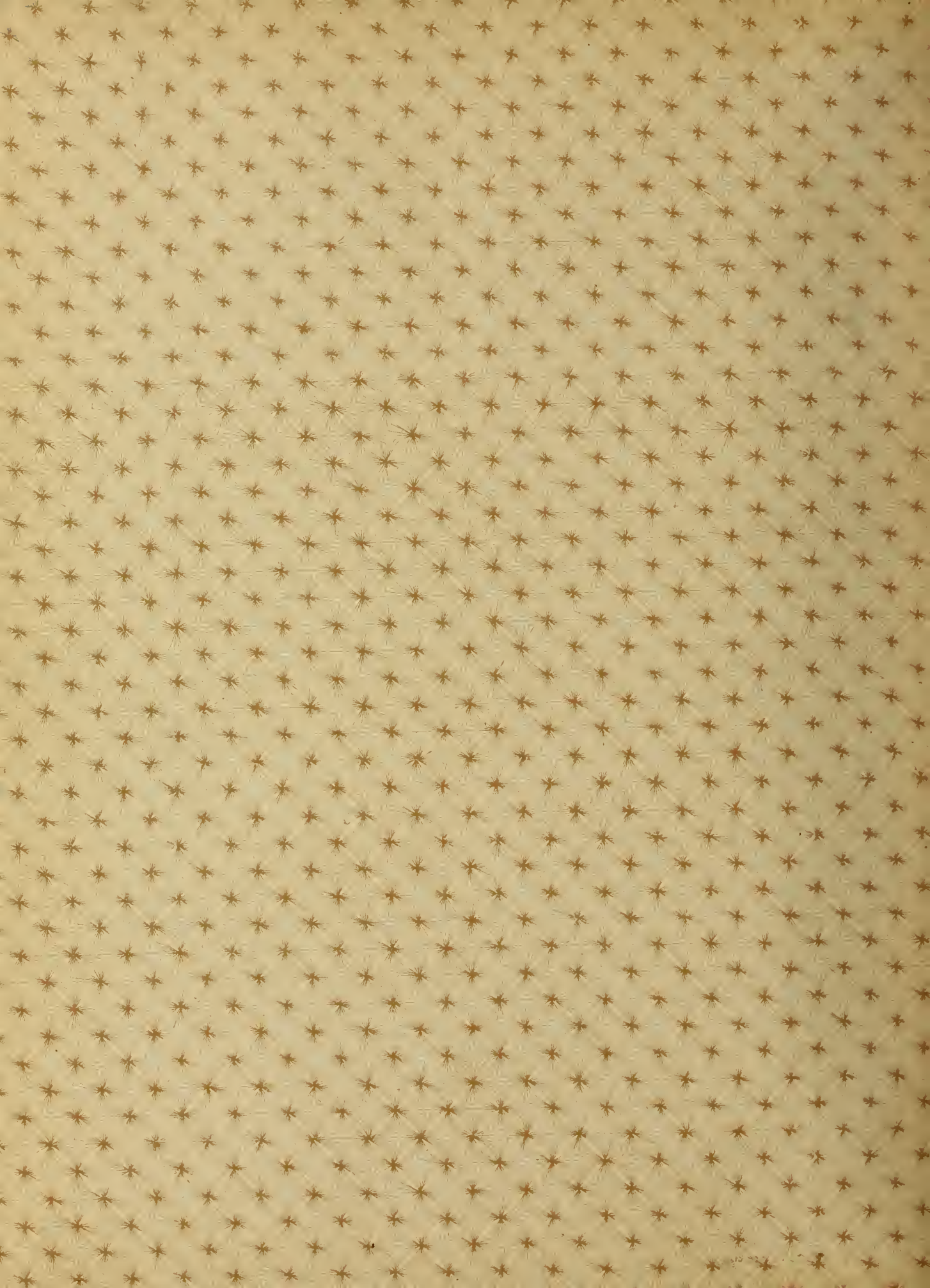
Wyandotte.-

Ypsilanti.- Ladies Library.

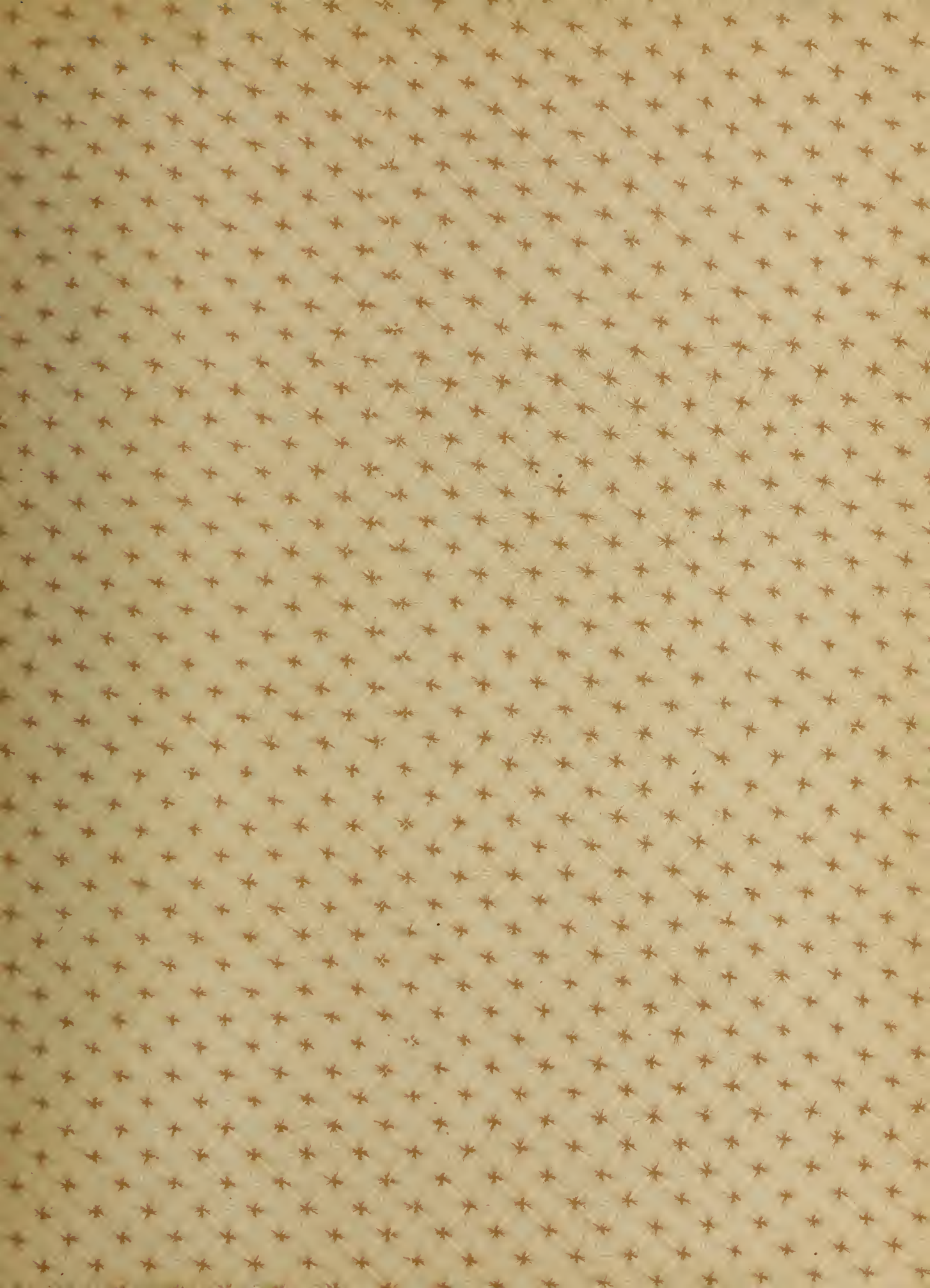
" \_\_\_\_\_ High School Library.

The library was organized about 1869 under the state law. It is, at present, in a room in the High School Building, and is supported by taxation and by fines from the justice's court. One peculiar feature is the grade library kept in each grade of the school. These libraries are in constant use, and prevent an excess of pressure in the main school library.









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